language satellite channels of Doordarshan have been in operation since 1st February, 1994:—

Doordarshan—IV

Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu.

Doordarshan—V

Assamese, Bangla and Oriya.

Doordarshan—VI

Gujarati, Kashmiri, Marathi and Punjabi.

(c) The reach of Doordarshan is being constantly increased through an expansion of its network. Simultaneously its programming is also being so structured to cater to the widest cross section of the population.

Expanding TV Network for Screening Foreign Programmes

125. SHRI MENTAY PADMANSBHAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent Government have met the challenges of foreign TV;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the new TV programmes are foreign serials; and

(c) if so, whether it is necessary to expand our TV network for screening foreign programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Despite the multiplicity of programming choice available today from varied sources, the programmes shown on the channels of Doordarshan continue to enjoy the highest viewership in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Impact of the entry of Foreign Media

126. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any representations from the Delhi Union of Journalists (DUJ) over the "open sesame policy" of allowing foreign media into the country;

(b) if so, what is the reaciton of Government thereon; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to consider the impact of the entry of foreign media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing policies of the Government restrict publication of foreign owned newspapers/periodicals in India and publication of Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals. Besides foreign news agencies are required to operate their news services in the country only through Indian news agencies.

Scrapping of Censorship of Children's Films

127. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the head of Children's Film Society has recommended scrapping censorship;

(b) if so, whether he is advocating the showing of violence and vulgar scenes to children; and

(c) whether any explanation has been sought from this Government appointtee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Government have not received any such recommendation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. All films are required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification before they are shown to the public.

Auctioning of the Time by Doordarshan

128. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided for the outright auctioning of 10 percent of the total time available on five satellite channels; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ten percent of the time on the satellite channels of Doordarshan has been earmarked for auction of time slots in deference to the observations made in a judgement delivered by the Delhi High Court striking down the scheme for allotment of time slots on these channels on first-come-first-served basis. Actual auctioning would, however, depend upon the outcome of the appeal preferred by the Government in the Supreme Court against the said judgement.

TV Transmitters in Gujarat

129. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1529 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th December, 1993 and state:

(a) what action has been taken by the Union Government on the proposals of Gujarat Government to convert the low power TV transmitter at Bhuj into a high power TV transmitter and to change the location of high power TV transmitter at Dwarka to some other suitable site; and

(b) whether the low power TV transmitter at Cambay has been commissioned into regular service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The Low Power TV Transmitter at Bhuj has been augmented to High Power Transmitter of 1 KW, as an interim set up and the same has since been commissioned into service with effect from 26.1.94. The transmitter on its full power of 10 KW is expected to be completed during the year 1995-96.

For shifting the existing High Power Transmitter at Dwarka, a suitable alternative location has been identified there.

(b) The Low Power TV Transmitter at Cambay (Khambat) is, at present, giving regular test transmission and is expected to be commissioned into service shortly.

Privatisation of Radio and Television

130. SHRI N.E. BALARAM:
SHRI N. GIRIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed privatisation of radio and television, as well as uplinking facilities for Indian broadcasters through Indian Satellites;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have appointed a high level group to study its implications; and

(d) whether they have made recommendations for the same and if so, the details thereof and what is Govenment's reaction thereto?